

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE 2009-10 (GEM)</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Andrew Ashcroft, Assistant Director Environment, Planning &amp; Waste</b>

## Wards Affected

County-wide

## Purpose

To bring together information on the council's performance on environmental issues in 2009/10 in relation to commitments made, in particular in the environmental policy and corporate plan. (Good Environmental Management – GEM)

## Recommendation

**THAT: The committee note the report**

## Key Points Summary

- This is one of a suite of reports underpinning the council's ISO 14001 environmental management certification. Setting, monitoring and reporting on environmental objectives and targets is a requirement of that standard and allows the public to see how we are performing against our objectives.

## Introduction and Background

- 1 The organisation has made top level environmental commitments in its environment policy and in the Corporate Plan (2010-13). The strategic objective is "The protection and enhancement of Herefordshire's distinctive environment, and tackling climate change".

## Key Considerations

- 2 Five long term outcomes are identified under the Corporate Plan environmental objective:-
  - i. Reduced waste and increased recycling;
  - ii. Reduced CO2 emissions and successful adaptation to unavoidable impacts of climate change;
  - iii. Increased biodiversity;

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Trish Marsh, Sustainability Manager on (01432) 261930

- iv. Natural resources are conserved and landscape character maintained, with sustainable land management;
  - v. Investment in high quality streets, public spaces and the built environment.
- 3 Overall performance is good – see attached report. However the National Indicator set has now been dropped so the format for reporting in future will have to be revised for 2010-11 and beyond.
- 4 Information on some areas is readily available however it has been difficult to access data to evidence performance in relation to some corporate commitments made. This does not in itself imply there are problems with performance, merely that appropriate measures and responsibilities for collecting them are not currently in place.
- 5 There is merit in expanding the set of measures we report against next year. Particular areas where coverage in relation to commitments made could be improved are :-
  - i. Resource efficiency ( which links closely to value for money)
  - ii. Reducing risk of pollution and also risks posed by future changes in climate
  - iii. Procurement and commissioning
  - iv. Biodiversity

## **Community Impact**

- 6 A commitment to protect and improve Herefordshire's' distinctive environment is one of the five guiding principles of the Herefordshire Community Strategy.

## **Legal Implications**

- 7 None identified.

## **Risk Management**

- 8 None identified.

## **Consultees**

- 9 Officers whose work is summarised in the report.

## **Appendices**

- 10 The 2009 -10 environmental performance report.

## **Background Papers**

- 11 Joint environment policy (January 2009) is at : [http://hc-sp/DocumentLibrary/Sustainability/Documents/GEM\\_Corporate/Environmental\\_Policy\\_January\\_2009.pdf](http://hc-sp/DocumentLibrary/Sustainability/Documents/GEM_Corporate/Environmental_Policy_January_2009.pdf)